

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to: a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record of votes taken.”

**Thursday, April 14, 2011
7:30 P.M.**

★ CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

★ ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Carol Coleman
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh II

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

★ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Richard Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”*.

★ MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Andrews reported that on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 residents had an opportunity to vote in the election on that date for candidates of their choice. He noted based on the unofficial results from the April 5th Election, Brian Bailey, Norman Schnauffer and Matthew Walsh were elected to the office of Village Trustee, Richard Andrews as Village President and Joseph Consolo as Village Clerk.

Mayor Andrews stated that on April 13th approximately twenty students from LaGrange Highlands School District #106 volunteered to participate in the first annual service day sponsored by the school. He noted some of the students helped to fill eggs for the Indian Head Park Easter Egg Hunt at Blackhawk Park that will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at 11:00 a.m.. Some of the students also helped the Public Works Department clean up Blackhawk Park. Mayor Andrews thanked all of the students that participated and the school for establishing the community service day. Mayor Andrews stated that due to several budget cuts, the Easter Egg Hunt this year will be sponsored and funded by the local elected officials of Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews mentioned that S.E.A.S.P.A.R. will be hosting an event to raise funds on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Tivoli Theater in Downers Grove featuring Hurricane Gumbo. Tickets are available through the S.E.A.S.P.A.R. offices at (630) 960-7600.

Mayor Andrews stated that Western Springs National Bank and Trust was taken over by the FDIC this past Saturday, the Village had accounts at that bank for many years and funds in those accounts are secure with the new bank.

Mayor Andrews stated that volunteers are still needed to help improve the landscape appearance and ground areas of the Heritage Center. He noted if anyone is interested in weeding or planting flowers, please contact Jane Kuhn.

Trustee Anne Bermier stated she is happy to see people in the audience attending the Board meeting this evening because many times there are no residents in the audience at the meetings. For the record, she further stated she and all of the Board members do not make \$38,000 per year in salary as mentioned during the last election but in fact the Board makes about \$8.00 per day. Trustee Bermier stated the media has also publicized recently about how municipalities pay out outrageous pensions to their mayor and trustees. She noted that the residents of Indian Head Park do not have to worry about that because the Board members do not get a pension. Trustee Bermier stated that she hopes that everyone attends the Easter Egg Hunt at Blackhawk Park and no taxpayer dollars will be spent on that event.

Mayor Andrews stated the alleged purported salary of the Board to be \$38,000 per year was highly inaccurate.

★ **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Water Contract between the Village of Indian Head Park and the City of Countryside

Reappointment of Diane Andrews as Planning/Zoning Commissioner for the term ending April 13, 2014

Reappointment of Jack Yelnick as Planning/Zoning Commissioner for the term ending April 13, 2014

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to approve Consent Agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote. (6/0/0).

★ **FINANCIAL REPORT - TREASURER STEVE BUSA**

Approval of Financial Report for the month ending March 31, 2011

Treasurer Busa presented the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2011. For the month of March, he noted: (1) total revenues were \$174,128.29; (2) expenditures were \$176,284.69 and; (3) total fund balances in all accounts at the end of March were \$575,005.43.

Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2011 as presented by Treasurer Busa. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: None

Treasurer Busa stated as Cook County receives the taxes that are due for the next installment of property taxes, the Village's portion will be received and reflected on the financial report as those funds come into the Village.

★ **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - March 10, 2011

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the March 10, 2011 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

★ **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discussion Regarding Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Indian Head Park Budget

Mayor Andrews stated the Village's fiscal year ends April 30, 2011. He noted the Village

is not required to have a budget but formally adopts an appropriations ordinance.

Mayor Andrews stated that the appropriations ordinance helps the Village determine what the tax rate will be and the ordinance sets forth limitations on spending for various budgeted line items. He noted that the Village has for many years approved a budget also as a tool and guideline for spending to determine amounts that may come into the Village in revenues from various sources as well as funds that may be spent. Mayor Andrews stated the current projected Village budget deficit for fiscal year ending April 30, 2011 is \$125,000. Mayor Andrews stated although the Village budget reflected a deficit of \$125,000 that number would be accurate only if the Village spent every dollar that was allocated in the budget for expenses and received every dollar that was budgeted for revenues. Mayor Andrews further stated that the Village Board has worked hard to reduce budget expenses. A purchase order approval process was implemented for all departments for any purchases over \$100.00 that must first be approved by the Village Administrator before the money is spent.

Mayor Andrews stated that the new fiscal year will be starting May 1, 2011 and the Board will not be discussing budget numbers this evening. He noted that the Board is aware of the wants and needs of residents in all areas of the Village and those issues will be balanced with sources that are available to the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that streets in Ashbrook and Arrowhead Trail are on the top of the list of streets to be resurfaced in the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village had an opportunity to have Blackhawk Trail resurfaced with Federal stimulus funds. The road project cost about \$400,000, the Village's portion was only \$20,000 and Federal stimulus funds paid for the rest of the project. He noted that the funds needed to be used only for Blackhawk Trail because it is the only street in the Village recorded on the Federal road mapping system that qualified for funding under the Federal guidelines.

Mayor Andrews stated that residents in Acacia want curbs repaired and some of the streets patched in various locations. He noted that some residents on the west side of Wolf Road would like to have a leaf program again. Mayor Andrews stated that the leaf program was suspended last year due to budget deficits and if the program is resumed again in the future it will be implemented again only if it can be funded each year. Mayor Andrews pointed out that residents of Chestnut on the Green would like the feeder street extensions dedicated to the Village as the main roads are so the Village can plow those area of streets in that development and the same for Indian Woods Development streets. Mayor Andrews stated that painting of the Heritage Center has been budgeted for two years and the project was deferred due to budget deficits. He noted that some structural repairs to the Heritage Center were completed such as a new roof, chimney, rear entrance modification and a new patio area that was donated by a resident of the Village. Trustee Bermier noted that some residents have asked about painting of the Heritage Center but a professional painter stated that the exterior is very old and there may be lead paint on the building exterior that needs to be removed safely by a professional painter.

Trustee Bermier stated that the library docents have raised funds through the annual book

sale and possibly some of those proceeds can be used for painting of the Heritage Center.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that the Village must also follow the Prevailing Wage Rate guidelines in Cook County. Contractors must be hired and paid according to the requirements of that law for all Public Works projects and this would include work at the Heritage Center property.

Mayor Andrews stated in addition to all of the streets that need to be done and other projects to be funded, the Public Works Department needs a new vehicle, the Police Department is short one full-time police officer, other infrastructure repairs need to be done and Village staff needs computer upgrades. He noted when he was in Springfield last year when the Pension Reform Bill was presented, the Pension Reform Bill was in the committee before the house in the morning and before the end of the day the bill had been through the committee, to the house, passed to the senate committee and approved by the Senate and sent to the Governor for signature that same day. Mayor Andrews stated that the State can act in one day. He mentioned concerns when the home rule discussions were taking place last year that the State could reduce the amount of State shared revenue and income tax that comes back to the Village with the State keeping a larger portion. Mayor Andrews stated that a reduced local distributive share of funds would have an impact on the Village's budget and the amount of projected revenue received by the Village is also based on a per capita basis which is why the census was so important to the Village of Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews stated that the increase in population in Indian Head Park from the last census will grant the Village an additional \$15,000 per year from revenue sharing coming from income taxes, Motor Fuel Taxes and Illinois use taxes. He noted that the State raised the income tax from 3% to 5% with the State keeping all of the increase. He noted that if the State left the Village's share alone, it would have resolved the Village's budget problems for some time with no other increase in fees in the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that the State also considered at one time reducing the local municipality share of state shared revenues that would result in even less revenue to the Village. Mayor Andrews noted that the County raised the property tax multiplier so property taxes went up in November but there are no additional dollars at the local level coming back to Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews stated as a non-home rule community the Village cannot act that quickly to raise revenues, the Village only has three opportunities every two years to place a referendum question on the ballot for voter approval to ask the residents for more money. Mayor Andrews asked each Board member to review the budget to determine if some spending can be reduced and also if revenue can be enhanced.

Trustee Coleman stated that the Village has previously hosted a concert in the park. However, concerts in the park are tentatively on hold and there are no summer concerts in the park planned at this time.

Trustee Bermier stated that some residents have commented that the Village should not spend money for maintenance of the Heritage Center and they suggested that the building could possibly be sold. Trustee Bermier stated that the Heritage Foundation rents a space in the building and pays rent to the Village four times a year so those funds help to pay for some maintenance costs.

Tim Kyzivat, of 1 Stonehearth Lane, asked if the Village is receiving any funds from the Timber Trails Development. Mayor Andrews stated that Dartmoor Homes paid for a sidewalk along Plainfield Road on the Indian Head Park side that benefitted residents and also a developer impact fee was negotiated in the amount of \$500,000 for Indian Head Park to be paid \$100,000 per year over five years by Dartmoor Homes. Mayor Andrews stated the Village received a total of \$300,000 from Dartmoor Homes, the economy had a downturn and the developer of Timber Trails went into receivership. Therefore, the Village did not receive the balance of \$200,000 in developer impact fees. Trustee Coleman noted that the Village will also be receiving about \$155,000 from the Township Park Bond referendum proceeds that were previously approved by the voters. Those funds were allocated for Blackhawk Park improvements and the funds can only be used for Blackhawk Park.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Village submitted various projects for consideration to receive funding from the Illinois Capital One Project for various infrastructure improvements in the Village. He noted the Village needed to cap a well to comply with State E.P.A. requirements and the Village expects to be reimbursed for that scope of work. Mayor Andrews stated that a proposed sidewalk project was also submitted along Willow Springs Road from Walgreens to 65th Place and a Cochise Drive watermain project under the Illinois Capital Improvement Project, if those grant funds are received.

Virginia Holt, of 6394 Pontiac Drive, stated that one source of revenue the Village receives is from annual vehicle stickers. She asked if the Village has a way to verify that all stickers are being purchased for all cars in town and if a State list is obtained of those cars registered to Indian Head Park. Chief Alonzo stated that the Village purchases a list from the Secretary of State of all vehicles registered in Indian Head Park and notices will be going out to residents that Village stickers must be purchased and displayed by a certain date. Frank Faron, of 6521 Pontiac Drive, asked if the Village received a cost estimate for painting of the Heritage Center property. Superintendent Ed Santen stated that the cost to remove the exterior paint and refinish the exterior of the Heritage Center could cost approximately \$30,000 although a current formal estimate has not been received by the Village.

★ QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Frank O'Connor, of Cascade Drive, stated he is present representing the Acacia Association. He noted there are three items of concern to the Acacia Board:

(1) there are concerns with the speed limit in Acacia and the Acacia Board would support a reduction of the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph; (2) there is an increase in motorists not stopping at designated stop signs in Acacia and he asked if camera phones can be used to take pictures of violators. Chief Alonzo stated it would not be a good idea to confront drivers in that manner to take pictures. He noted officers will enforce the regulations, a police officer cannot be stationed at a permanent location where there is no continuous flow of traffic and if a violation occurs in the presence of the officer, the driver will be stopped.; (3) the Acacia Association is asking the Village if the existing tree stump in the island of the south entrance of Acacia can be ground down so a new tree can be planted and (4) a resident of Acacia has two dogs that are off-leash on a regular basis and he asked if the Village can help to enforce the leash regulation in the Village if a call is made to the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board will look into all of the matters presented to the Board by Acacia.

Steve Holliger, 11042 W. 72nd Street and Carol Tiscareno of 11034 W. 72nd Street, stated they are present representing the Chestnut on the Green Association, Phase 2 Board. Mr. Holliger stated that he is aware a homeowner of Chestnut on the Green approached the Village to request dedication of the extension street areas in the development. He added that on behalf of the Chestnut Board, the request is to petition the Board to consider dedicating the extension street sections in Chestnut on the Green Development to the Village. He further noted that all streets meet all of the I.D.O.T. standards for dedication. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board will look into the matter.

Denise Guardino, of 6488 Thunderbird Drive, asked about the Heritage Center Foundation and if the foundation owns the facility. Mayor Andrews stated the Village owns the Heritage Center property. Mrs. Guardino asked if the Village is restricted in any way from selling or leasing the property. Mayor Andrews stated that the Heritage Center property was acquired by grant money from the State through a land acquisition grant. He noted counsel would need to provide a legal opinion as to whether the property could be sold and if any grant money would need to be paid back if the property is sold. Mrs. Guardino asked how much grant money was received for the Heritage Center. Trustee Coleman stated the grant for the Heritage Center was about \$325,000. Mrs. Guardino asked how much money is needed to maintain the building each year. Trustee Bermier pointed out according to the budget, the total revenue received for the Heritage Center was \$3,200 and total expenses were about \$1,100. She noted that there is no charge for electricity as a municipal owned building as part of the ComEd Franchise Agreement, a grant was received for the fire alarm sprinkler system and Nicor Gas gives a certain number of free therms for heating the building according to the franchise agreement. Mayor Andrews noted that insurance for the building is covered under the Village's policy through the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency and maintenance is performed by the Public Works Department. Mrs. Guardino stated that the Heritage Center property is deteriorating, it does not add value to the community and if the property could be sold maybe the money could be put to uses that would benefit the entire community.

Mayor Andrews stated that based on the current economic situation in the real estate market, even if the Heritage Center could be sold it does not appear to be a good time to try to sell property. He stated that the Village is not on the brink of collapse such that the Heritage Center had to be sold. Mayor Andrews stated that at one time a developer was interested in building a professional building on the corner of Plainfield and Wolf Road at the location of the Village park (Arrowhead Memorial Pointe) that was also funded by a grant as well as Sacajawea Park and Blackhawk Park. These are all Village assets that could be used in the future.

Mrs. Guardino stated that the Heritage Center is an eyesore, a money drain and the property adds little value to the community. She asked how the money was utilized that was received from Dartmoor Homes from the impact fees of \$300,000. Mayor Andrews stated the money from Dartmoor Homes was deposited in the General Fund for overall Village expenses.

Craig Fisher, of 11251 Plainfield Road, stated he is representing the Indian Head Park Homeowner Association Members. Mr. Fisher stated that maybe the Village should annex or merge with Western Springs, Burr Ridge or Countryside as a possible way to share services. Mayor Andrews stated that when the Village incorporated in 1959 the idea was for the community to continue to grow over the years and residents who live in town are proud to be residents and part of Indian Head Park. He added that because there may be some financial issues now, it is not a reason to throw in the towel, most towns are experiencing the same budget issues and everyone is looking for ways to cut expenses and increase revenues. Mayor Andrews pointed out that counsel has provided input that a Village Board cannot by law transfer the entire town into another town and give up its certificate and articles of incorporation or transfer its laws, ordinances and powers to another community. He noted there are a myriad of issues with a concept of annexing to another town such as who would pay the current debt, what about the building assets, who would fix roads and maintain infrastructure and who would keep any revenue generated.

Mayor Andrews stated that once a town is unincorporated, no area of that town can be forced to be part of another town unless the parcel of land is 60 acres or less and is totally surrounded contiguously on all sides by another community. Then that property can be forced into annexing into the larger municipality. No part of Indian Head Park meets that criteria. Mayor Andrews stated that some people might want to go to another town while others like the community the way it is. Craig Fisher stated there are cases where towns have merged and it is just an idea. Mayor Andrews stated that merging with another town is not a good idea for Indian Head Park. Furthermore as Mayor, he believes his duty is to maintain the existence of Indian Head Park as a viable municipality.

Craig Fisher stated that based on a previous analysis of the Village budget by a resident, Mr. Grady, the Police Department takes up 60% of the budget. He asked if combining the police department with another department is an option to save on costs.

Mayor Andrews stated that Mr. Grady's figure is not accurate and current budget expenses for the Police Department is about 39% of the budget. Mr. Fisher asked if a comprehensive analysis of the budget is available for review. Mayor Andrews stated that the budget and audited financial statements are available for public review and that Mr. Grady obtained a copy of those documents previously. Mayor Andrews stated there were other misconceptions too by Mr. Grady that Chief Alonzo was part of a police union and that also is not true.

Trustee Bermier stated that several years ago she recalled that some members of the Indian Head Park homeowner's association were opposed to the Village going to Southwest Central Dispatch Services instead of in-house dispatching. The Village decided to have dispatch services handled by Southwest Central Dispatch many years ago. Trustee Bermier stated there was a gas leak last year in the Village and an officer was on-site immediately to insure the safety of the residents. She added if the Village had to wait for someone else to respond from another town that could have taken a long time.

Mayor Andrews stated the practical matter is that he likes Indian Head Park and annexing to another town is not an option for the Board to consider. Trustee Coleman stated that the Village of Burr Ridge and Village of Willowbrook have been looking into consolidating both of their police departments. Both of those towns decided not to pursue that option and there is a lot more that goes into consolidating departments other than saving dollars. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village is ahead of the curve and made some changes several years ago that helped the budget situation at that time such as centralized dispatch services that many towns are now just considering due to budget constraints. Mayor Andrews stated that one of the main attractions of Indian Head Park when he moved in many years ago was that a town of 2,400 people at that time had their own Police Department. He added that at this time it does not appear to be prudent to give up the Police Department and jeopardize the safety of the residents.

Mrs. Cink asked how many police officers does the Village have on staff. Chief Alonzo stated he serves as a part-time chief of police and part-time administrator, there are eight full-time officers (5 full police officers and 3 sergeants), and about seven part-time officers. Craig Fisher asked if there are any unfunded pension liabilities and if the Village is covered under the State pension. Chief Alonzo stated the Village is covered by law under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Employees are required to join and contribute with the employer contributing a portion and there are no pension liabilities for Indian Head Park.

Virginia Holt stated that some residents would appreciate knowing when there are police incidents occurring in the community because a neighborhood watch is the best crime deterrent in a town so residents are informed to be more alert. Chief Alonzo stated that the media obtains all of the police reports on matters in communities and the newspaper decides what incidents they want to report about. Chief Alonzo stated that possibly some general information could be posted on the cable access channel or Village Website.

Mrs. Holt stated it would be nice to have a system in place to alert residents of any suspicious activity happening in the community.

Trustee Coleman suggested that residents contact the Police Department non-emergency number for any suspicious activity so an officer can investigate the matter. Mrs. Holt stated that some residents may not be aware of all ordinances regarding various issues. She asked if the ordinances are coded for reference on the Website. Mayor Andrews stated that links to some of the Village ordinance regulations are posted on the Website including *Title 17 Zoning*, *Title 15 Building and Construction*, the tree preservation regulations and contractor licensing registration requirements. Additional portions of the Village's Municipal Code will be posted in time.

Mrs. Holt asked how violations of the Village ordinances are handled. Chief Alonzo stated that when someone reports a possible violation to the Village, the matter will be investigated, a letter may sent and a possible citation may be issued if that person is not willing to comply. He added that sometimes the matter takes time if it goes to the court system and the Village continuously follows up on these matters. Mayor Andrews stated that the benefit of having its own Police Department is that the Village can follow-up on these matters if there is a violation of ordinances and handle it on our own.

Mayor Andrews stated there was one particular incident that occurred late last December with a certain newspaper that reports on Indian Head Park. The person reporting on that particular story about Indian Head Park waited until late in the day on the date of their deadline to seek input. The reporter called the Village to talk to Chief Alonzo and left a message on his voicemail after he was gone for the day. He noted the newspaper went on to report in the police blotter that Chief Alonzo and Mayor Andrews did not return phone calls which was totally inaccurate, because no message was left for Mayor Andrews and it was too late in the day to reach the Chief.

Mrs. Holt stated that she recently found out that when she called the non-emergency police department that the call goes to Palos Hills at Southwest Central Dispatch. Chief Alonzo stated after several rings on the non-emergency line if someone is not in the station to answer, the call transfers to Southwest Central Dispatch who in turn contacts an officer in town to respond to an incident.

Mrs. Cink asked if the Village will be taking any action on trees in town with Oak Wilt Disease. Trustee Coleman stated that the Public Works Department should be contacted to report any possible tree diseases and the Village arborist will visit the property to determine if any action needs to be taken either by the Village or a private property owner. Superintendent Santen stated that he is aware of the tree on private property with Oak Wilt Disease and the homeowner was notified by the Public Works Department.

Chris Metz, of 6403 Arrowhead Court, stated there was a recent article in the newspaper about a bill at the State level in Springfield to allow billboards along the expressways. He asked how that would affect Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews stated he is aware that representatives of CBS Outdoor are pursuing that legislation and the Village code currently does not allow for billboards. Counsel Ramello stated an opinion that billboards would have to be within 600 feet of a right-of-way or an Interstate highway. Mayor Andrews noted that if the law passes, the Village would address billboards at that time. Currently, billboards are not allowed in the Village.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline or performance of specific employees. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: None

RETURN TO THE OPEN MEETING

Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 9:25 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary